

# Dunham Singletary

## FAMILY CONNECTIONS

**Issue 2**

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### **President's Letter**

Dear Family:

I am very honored to have been elected the President of this great organization! What a fantastic job Gratia and Paul have done on getting this organization started. The website is wonderful, as well as the DNA information.

I became interested in genealogy at age 12, after my paternal grandfather told me about his parents. All I knew was that his father's name was Jacob Mackey Dunham, born in Virginia 7 May 1824. I had to look at every county in Virginia in the 1830 Census when he would have been age 6. It was a long process. I found no males listed as age 5 or 6. I did not check the Virginia counties that became WEST Virginia until last as grandpa did not mention WEST Virginia. Then I found a Jacob Dunham on the Berkeley County, WEST Virginia census of 1830 with 2 sons age 0-5. One of these sons was Jacob Mackey Dunham.

This began my interest in genealogy and since then I have traced Dunhams from the several different branches, including my line which descends from Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary.

*David Lee Dunham, President*

### **Editor's Corner**

Welcome to the newly elected officers and board of directors of the Dunham-Singletary Family Connections family association.

The major article in this edition of the DSFC newsletter was supplied by Charles Graves, D. Theol., currently living in Geneva Switzerland. Dr. Graves has done a great deal of research on the SINGLETARY family of Lincolnshire and on several DOWNHAM families residing in the same area. Dr. Graves is a descendant of the Deacon John Dunham line, but he has been interested in locating data on the possible origin of both the SINGLETARY and DUNHAM/DOWNHAM/DONHAN families.

His article is presented as a hypothesis and as a starting point for further research on both the SINGLETARY and DOWNHAM families. The goal is to locate living male descendants in England who will participate in DNA analysis.

The article is followed by some notes I obtained earlier this month from Paul Milner, a professional genealogist familiar with research in northern England.

Finally, a reminder that the Civil War began exactly 150 years ago today.  
*Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor*

## Member's Corner

Ballots for the election of officers and directors of Dunham-Singletary Family Connections were sent to all members in March 2011. Only 35 members voted for the slate of officers and directors. There were no write-in names. The results are:

President and Director—David L. Dunham

Vice President and Director—Lloyd E. Dunham

Secretary and Director—John L. Dunham

Treasurer and Director—Paul C. Dunham

Historian and Director—Gratia D. Mahony (also Editor)

Director—Bruce M. Dunham (also Assistant Treasurer)

Director—Trudy Dunham

Director—Selma Blackmon

Many thank to Paul C. Dunham for his work in the election process.

**Welcome to the new officers and directors!**

## **MEMBER and NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES “MY HERITAGE WEBSITE”**

*By David Lee Dunham*



**David Lee Dunham and Delcy Dunham**

I had always wanted to have my own website online to post my family tree data where I could make additions, corrections, and edit. These were available but, a little expensive for anyone retired and on a fixed income. Then I came across the website quite by accident named: my Heritage.com. Much to my surprise they offer the first 250 people in your tree at no charge (free), then 2,500 people for \$6.25 per month or \$75.00 per year, or an unlimited number of people for \$9.95 per month or \$119.40 per year.

You have full control even of the 250 person free site, You can add new data at any time, make corrections, deletions, spelling add sources, or post pictures. You have access with just your email address and a pass word. You can also view the data of other members who have the same people as in your tree side by side for comparison. In both the sites that are charged for you can confirm or reject the data in the other tree, and email them with the correct data with documentation and or sources. In the free site, you can also look at these duplicate people, but cannot confirm or reject them. You can do a lot of other things as well. This is a fabulous website.

[www.MyHeritage.com](http://www.MyHeritage.com)

# The Origins of Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary (based on parish records in Lincolnshire, UK)

by Charles Graves

The present article is in the form of a working hypothesis to the effect that Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary's ancestors are from '*the Wash*' - *Holland area* in southern present-day *Lincolnshire* and that he is descended from the Singletary and Downham families which lived in that region in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

From the point of view of English parish records of that era at least four Dunham / Downham / Downam families were marrying and having children in the region :

Dunhams of central Norfolk County (to the east of Lincolnshire - the name probably comes from the villages Great and Little Dunham in that central region of Norfolk)

Dunhams of Fulstow and Saltfleetby in north-eastern Lincs. The name probably originated at Dunham in Nottinghamshire.

Downhams in 'theWash' region of 'Holland' in south Lincs. The name probably comes from Downham Market, Norfolk, on the Ouse river bordering 'the Wash' region of Lincolnshire)

Dunham of Henlow and Clophill, Bedfordshire (ancestors of Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth MA)

There were also Downhams in n.w. Yorkshire at Clapham and surrounding (origin of some USA Dunham family members) and several other regions of present-day United Kingdom.

Singletarys are *only to be found in 'the Wash' - Holland region* of southern Lincolnshire. Speculation about the origin of this name : if we consider the *Domesday Book* in Southern Lincolnshire (1086) we find several possible ancestors for Singletary : the two Norman noblemen receiving land grants from the king (William the Conqueror in 1066) were Count Alan (a Breton magnate who was Count of Richmond) and Guy of Craon (from Anjou, France). Count Alan had a manor at *Donnington*, s. Lincs. which a person called **Ralph** administered for him (Ralph is a Scandinavian-Norman name). Count Alan also had a manor at *Gosberton* (later home of the Singletarys) which **Guerd** administered for him. Guerd would probably be a person of Anglo-Saxon origin. The king himself held the manor of *Tydd St. Marys* in s. Lincs. 'Wash' region. We shall see later that the Downham / Downam family in the 16th-17th centuries were living in Tydd. St. Marys.

The family name **Downham** most probably was attributed to persons living at one time in Downham Market, Norfolk, about 25 miles east of 'the Wash' region in Lincolnshire (see above).

The family name **Singletary** (those holding this name in England according to parish records dating from *circa*. 1535) is *only to be found in 'the Wash' region* of southern Lincolnshire and nowhere else after *circa*. 1535 (when King Henry VIII obliged all church parishes to record in writing baptisms, marriages and deaths).

One hypothesis (held by the author) is that Singletary is a composite of two Norman-French adjectives : **cinglé** (pronounced 'sanglay') and **taré** (pronounced 'taray'). This double two-adjective descriptive nickname would signify for the Norman-French speaking person the French words for 'crazy' or 'odd'. Both words have a similar meaning but *cinglé* can be used today not only for 'crazy' but also for 'bold' or 'unreflecting' Someone who acts too boldly or oddly is considered *cinglé*. Someone who is really off the mark or imbecile is considered *taré*.

Of course other interpretation of 'singletary' are possible The old English *singel /scingal* meant 'shingles' and this occurred in the names of some towns such as Singleborough in Buckinghamshire, meaning 'shingle-hill'. Singleton in Lancashire meant 'farmstead with shingled roof'.

In the parish records 1535-1750 all listings of Singletary persons in England are to be found in the parishes of 'the Wash' - Holland region of South Lincolnshire. Sometime in the period 1066 (William the Conqueror) and 1535 (when Henry VIII instituted written church records) the ancestor of the Singletarys of s. Lincolnshire were given a nickname '*cinglé-taré*' and this nickname stuck as a proper family name. Of course, this is still a hypothesis.

As for Dunham or Downham, persons holding this family name in the 16th-18th centuries, are to be found in Lincolnshire at Fulstowe-Saltfleetby area (n.e. Lincs.) (*Dunham*), in 'the Wash' area of s.e. Lincs. (*Downham/Downam*), and in county Norfolk (mainly near Norwich the capital of Norfolk)(*Dunham*).

More precisely, however, it was found that Downham and Singletary families inhabited virtually the same villages in 'the Wash' area whereas Dunham (of n.e. Lincs.) remained 50 miles to the north and the Norfolk Dunham family remained 50 miles to the east in central Norfolk.

It appears, therefore, that the 'Dunham' element in the name of **Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary** is related to the **Downham/Downam family of 'the Wash'- Holland area** in s.e. Lincs. and not to either the Dunhams of Fulstowe or the Dunhams of Norwich. This, of course, is not 100% foolproof, since it is possible that Fulstowe-Saltfleetby Dunhams or the Norwich Dunhams sailed to Massachusetts in the 1620s-1640s and that Richard Singletary (of Salem, later of Haverhill, Massachusetts) had to do with them after arriving in Massachusetts (c. 1637-8).

Gratia Dunham Mahony makes reference to **Downham in Massachusetts** at an early time. She notes in an e-mail to me citing a book by Clarence Almon Torrey (*New England Marriages Prior to 1700*) p. 229 that a *John Downham and wife Dorothy* were

parents of a child born 14 March 1643 at Braintree. MA. Several children were born to this couple at Braintree (*'at the same time as John and Mary Dunham (John Dunham the Deacon line) were having children at Plymouth, MA'*). Hence Massachusetts at an early time had both Downham /Downnam and Dunham families. As we saw above, John the Deacon's line of Plymouth originated at Henlow / Cophill in Bedfordshire and is completely separate from the Lincolnshire line under investigation.

## **II. Records of Singletary and Downham in 'the Wash'-Holland region of southern Lincolnshire**

'The Wash' area is known for at least two salient features : (1) as can be seen in a comparison of John Speed's 1610 *map of Lincolnshire* and present-day maps, it is an area of 'land reclamation'. Originally an ocean or very marshy area where the North Sea entered the whole region (hence 'the Wash'), by the 17th century (Speed's map) some land was ***reclaimed of the sea*** by canalizing the sea water. This canalizing effort, lasting over centuries, reached even southwards to northern Cambridgeshire. Of course, the headquarters of these draining activities were in the various villages erected near the ocean and inhabited mainly by persons engaged in land reclamation. The second feature was the medieval industry of '***salt pans***', i.e. creating salt for sale out of the sea water which was introduced into shallow areas ('pans') where the sea water could evaporate. Even in *Domesday Book (year 1086)* Surfleet (later home of the Singletarys) had 2 of these 'salt pans'. The name Surfleet itself and 'Saltfleetby' in North Lincolnshire arose from the profession of the inhabitants in using the 'salt pans'.

Some of the names of towns where Downham and Singletary lived (cf. A.D. Mills, *Dictionary of British Place Names, Oxford University Press 2003 (Oxford Paperback Reference)* were:

For the villages directly in 'the Wash' area, note the references to water, salt water, muddy water, creek, ditch etc.

Surfleet : meaning sour creek (salty creek) in Old English ;

Gosberton : meaning church of an anglo-saxon man called Gosbert ;

Quadring : Muddy settlement of the family or followers of a man called Haefer ;

Wigtoft : homestead by a former creek (cf. Old Scandinavian *Vik*)

Spalding : ditch or trench (*spald*) settlement

For the villages south of the direct 'Wash' in the area where there was some higher land, in the southern part of 'the Wash' - Holland region of Lincs :

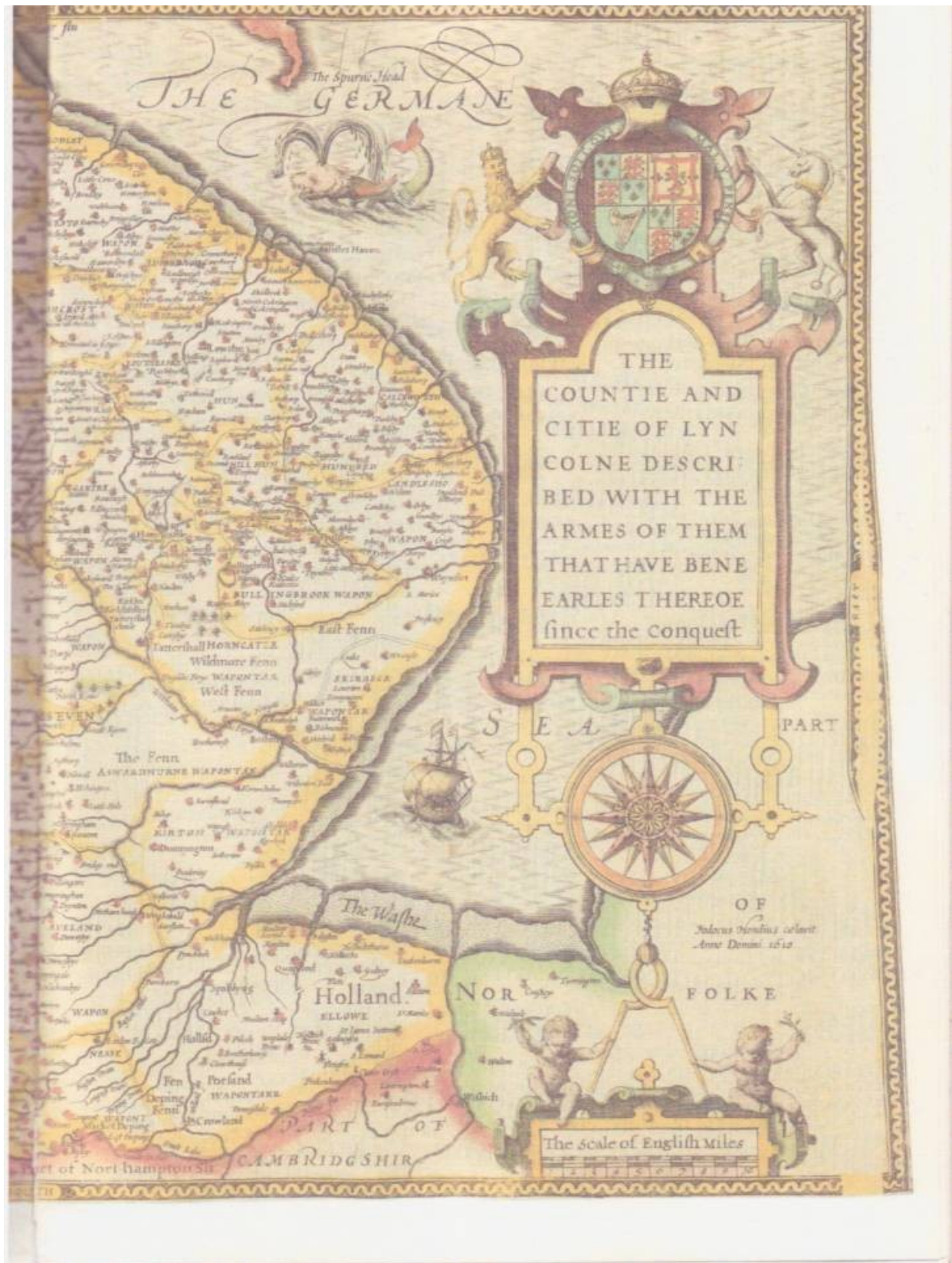
Tidd St. Marys : from Old English *titt* (small hill) ;

Sutton (Long Sutton) ; Sutton St. James : south farmstead or village ;

Downham Market (in Norfolk) : 'on or near a hill'.

*Wikipedia* (an internet encyclopedia) provides some information about these villages : Both Surfleet and Gosberton contain populations of about 2,500 persons today.





John Speed Map of 'the Wash' area of England—1610

Surfleet is described as ‘*on the Lincolnshire fens*’ and that ‘*remains of Roman sea banks and salt pans can be seen near the village*’. About Gosberton (next to Surfleet to the north) *the main occupation is farming ; the two churches there and that at Quadring are in the same group, based in Gosberton*’.

Concerning Long Sutton (15 miles to the s.e.) ‘*like many fenland towns, Long Sutton has an illustrious history thanks to the fertile silt lands of the Lincolnshire fens* (marshy lands). *The Friday market dates back to the early 13th century when the town was a prosperouis trading centre.. By the mid-14 th century Long Sutton was considered to be one of the richest communi-ties in Lincolnshire*’.

Within the south Lincolnshire region of ‘the Wash’ the first known record of a family baptising children by the name of Singletary was that one at Surfleet (for its location, see Speed’s 1610 map of Lincolnshire). This family of ***Frances Singletary with wife Agnes and documented children William, Joan, Ralph and Theophilus*** has become also, through probably correct spe-culation, the family of Richard Singletary of Salem and Haverhill, MA (father or step-father of ‘Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary’).

#### **Frances Singletary (b. 1559, d.1617) married Agnes c. 1584**

<b><i>William</i></b> chr. 1599 Surfleet, Lincs.	<b><i>Joan(Syngletarye)</i></b> chr.. 1594 Surfleet =John Syson on 25.6.1618	<b><i>Ralph</i></b> chr. 1592 <b>Gosberton,</b> Lincs. (later records available)	<b><i>Theophilus</i></b> chr. 1608 Surfleet	<b><i>Richard</i></b> b. 1595-8 ( ? ) Surfleet ( ? ) of Salem, Salisbury, Mass. by 1637 Died 1687 Haverhill, Mass.
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We note that one of Frances’ children (Ralph) was baptised, not at Surfleet church, but at neigh-bouring ***Gosberton church***, in 1592. Both Ralph’s and his sister Joan’s progeny have been do-cumented at Surfleet and nearby but no document on a Richard Singletary exists with this fami-ly at Surfleet. However, Ralph did have a son called Richard (chr. Surfleet in 1633) which may give some indications he had a brother Richard, born *circa*. 1595.  
It is most illuminating to note, moreover, that the Downham/Downam family was having its chil-dren christened in the same Gosberton church (where Ralph Singletary was christened 1592) :

#### **William Downham (Downam)= Alice Dickinson**

<b><i>Stephen Downham</i></b> chr. 29.12.1588 at <b>Gosberton, Lincs.</b>	<b><i>Ann Downam</i></b> chr. 12.3.1591 at <b>Gosberton</b>	<b><i>Elizabeth Downham</i></b> chr. 3.8.1593 at Quadring next to Gosberton (north)
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A Stephen Downham (chr. Gosberton 1588) and Ann Downam (chr. Gosberton 1591) then sis-ter Elizabeth Downham was christened at Quadring church just north of Gosberton in 1593. The parents of these children was William Downham and his wife Ann (probably the Ann Dickin-son who married William Downham at Tydd St. Marys 3.12.1586). Thus, Ralph Singletary, son of Frances and Agnes of Surfleet, Lincs. was

christened at Gosberton just after Ann Downham/Downam and just before Elizabeth Downham at nearby Quadring (same group of churches as Gosberton – see above) From these dates it appears that most probably the Frances Singletary family was acquainted with the William Downham family at Surfleet-Gosberton.

The probable origin of this Downham family is at **Tydd St. Mary**, 15 miles south in Lincolnshire, as can easily be seen in the great number of Downhams / Downams living in that place in 16th-17th century (as shown in IGI). Tydd St. Mary is next (2 miles to the east) to **Sutton St. James**, a later Singletary residence which Tom Berg (DSFC) investigated. Tydd St. Mary inhabitants were engaged in farming and probably in making dikes to canalise water in southern Lincolnshire and as far as northern Cambridgeshire.

Tydd St. Mary's population were no doubt occupied in land reclamation projects begun in the Middle Ages and continuing up to today. Tydd St. Marys and its neighbouring villages (**Long Sutton and Sutton St. James**) were located a mere 3 miles from the North Sea coast in 1610 (Speed's map) and are located *circa* 5 miles from the North Sea today (indicating progress in the land reclamation).

We can imagine that the Downham family members inhabiting these villages of Tydd St. Marys and the Suttons were, in one way or another, engaged in draining and canal-building projects.

As well as at Gosberton – Quadring ( 15 miles to the north - see above) the Downham family is recorded further south at **Tydd St. Marys (TSM)**, Long Sutton and Sutton St. James as follows (as seen in parish records) :

Torian Downham, father of Elizabeth 1566 (TSM)

Robert Downham father of Ann 1575 (TSM)

**Thomas Downham** father of John 1565 (died), 1571 (TSM)

father of **Jonathan** 1565 (TSM)

father of Agnes 1567 (TSM)

**Brian Downham**(= Agnes Duffin), father of Catherine 1561 (died), 1562 (TSM)

father of Robert 1562 (died), 1563 (TSM)

father of Elizabeth 1566 (TSM)

Other records of TSM :

Thomas Downham married Alice Calling 1596

John Downham and wife Emme chr. child Richard Downham 1633

At **Sutton St. James (SSJ)** (3 miles west of Tydd St. Marys) the following Downhams were recorded :

William Downham father of Joan (who married Richard Gunn 1578)

William was father of William chr.- 1561 (could be the William who baptised children at Gosberton-Quadring in 1590s – see above)



This or another **William Downham** was  
father of Elizabeth 1587 (died) 1594 (SSJ)  
father of Ellen 1592 (SSJ)  
father of Jackanse 1593 (SSJ)  
father of Catherine (SSJ)  
father of Brian 1598 (SSJ)

The above-mentioned **Brian Downham** (TSM) lived at Spalding (between Surfleet to the north and Sutton St. James to the south).

He was father of **William** chr. 1631 (Spalding)  
father of **Brian** chr. 1634 Spalding  
father of Alice chr. 1627 Spalding (=Thomas Wiles 1655 at Spalding).

William Downham (chr. 1631 at Spalding) = Margaret Holmes in 1644  
They are parents of William chr. 1661 (Spalding)  
Margaret chr. 1664 Spalding  
Ann chr. 1664 (died) 1665 Spalding

Brian Downham (chr. 1634 at Spalding) = Jane  
They are parents of child 1671 Market Deeping, Lincs. (west of Spalding)  
of William chr. 1681 Market Deeping

At **Long Sutton (LS)** (called 'Sutton' in 1610) 3 miles n. of Tydd St. Marys and 3 miles n.e. of Sutton St. James John Downham had christened a son John 1615. This son John died same year 10 October

*daughter Lydia 1620.*

If another John was born in his family soon after the first John died as infant, it may be the John Downham having children with Dorothy at Braintree, MA in 1643 and later (see above). About his *sister Lydia* it is conceivable that *she was the mother of Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary*. We shall see below that her grandfather was **Jonathan Downham** (noted above chr. 1565 son of Thomas).

### III. Other Singletary records in 'the Wash' district of Lincolnshire

In **Surfleet** ( in 'the Wash' area 15 miles to n.w. of TSM and SSJ) **Ralph Singletary** (chr. 1592) son of Frances married Isabel Archer 1628 and had children baptised there : John (1629), Robert (1633), **Richard** (1633) and Ellen (1634)

At **Wigtoft** (3 miles n.e. of Gosberton) also in 'the Wash' area, Zacharias Singletary married **Frances Cooke** 1684 (see below for an earlier Susannah Cooke in this family) and had children baptised there : Mary (1692), **Zacharias** 1689 (died), 1695 ; Ann (1686) ; Elizabeth (married Richard Clark 1726 at Wigtoft ; Eleanor 1693 and **John** (1691 - died), 1697 (married Frances Scholer 1721).

Zacharias Singletary (chr. 1695) married Eleanor Brand 1740 at Quadring near Gosberton.

At **Long Sutton** (cf. above where Downham lived earlier) there was a family of John Singletary and his wife Mary with following children : Elizabeth (chr.- 1684), **John** (1688), Ann (1688), Richard (1690), Ralph (1690), Henry (1694), Joseph (1694), Edward (1695) and Mary (1698). Various children (noted above) were buried at Sutton St. James (3 miles s. of Long Sutton ) e.g. Mary d. 1689, Ann d. 1688, Henry d. 1694, and Joseph d. 1694. This indicates that this Singletary branch was originally from Sutton St. James but no doubt worked and had children baptised at Long Sutton.

John Singletary (chr. 1688) was probably the one who married Ann Thompson 1711 at Long Sutton. A William Singletary married Elizabeth Fish 1725 at Long Sutton. An Ann Singletary married William Ellington 1718 at Holbeach, Lincs (also in 'the Wash' area).

Regarding **Sutton St. James** (cf. Downham above) William Singletary was buried there 23.7.1720 (his parents were John and Ann) ; Mary Singletary was buried there 30.12.1721. Also noted is that some children of William Singletary and wife Elizabeth died there in March and May 1728.

From the above, the overlapping of Singletary and Downham/Downam families is considerable and leads to the belief that **Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary** originated in these villages. Below is chart of Downham / Downam family in **Tydd St. Marys** :

Torian	Brian	Robert	Thomas Downham		
			<b>Jonathan</b> chr. 1565	<b>John</b> chr. 1571 =Alice 1596	<b>Agnes</b> chr. 1567
			<b>John</b> chr. 1616 died 1616 Sutton St. James	<b>Lydia</b> chr. 9.4. 1620 Sutton St. James	

We note that the John Downham in Braintree, Massachusetts having children with Dorothy (cf. above) whose names were Dorothy, John, Mery and Benjamin.

Richard Singletary's first female children in Massachusetts were Eunice and **Lydia**. If Lydia Downham was Richard's 'wife / companion ('Goodwife Singletary') before arriving in the colonies then his second daughter could be called Lydia named after her. The name Eunice was quite popular and we find it often in both Quadring and Wigtoft in 'the Wash' area in the era of Richard Singletary. There was found no record of a Lydia Downham / Downam marriage in Lincolnshire.

#### **IV. Conclusions**

Singletary families did not arrive in Long Sutton or Sutton St. James until the 1650s-1680s (see above). But Downham / Downam arrived at Surfleet and Gosberton in the 1590s. Singletary knew the Downhams / Downams at Gosberton in the 1590s.

Richard Singletary (of Salem and Haverhill, MA), if from Surfleet, knew (through his parents) the Downhams and these Downhams are, no doubt, the same as the Tydd St. Marys Downhams. The origin of the Downhams / Downams was at Tydd St. Marys since the 1540s. Tydd St. Marys is 15 miles s.e. of Surfleet.

The fact that Singletary lived at (Long) Sutton and Sutton St. James next to Tydd St. Marys in the 17th century was probably due to the fact that jobs were available in marketing or for canalization and drainage. It is possible that by 1600 **William Singletary** christening children at Gosberton and Quadring before 1599 went back to the Tydd St. Marys and Sutton St. James area and was the ancestor of the **John Singletary** having children in the Suttons in the 1680s.

Richard Singletary of Salem and Haverhill, if a child of Francis Singletary of Surfleet chr. *circa* 1595-99 also could have moved as a young man to the Suttons 15 miles to the south, engaging in the drainage works there. He could have met the Downhams there.

It is possible that the Lydia Downham of Sutton St. James (chr. 1620) was known to Richard Singletary before he emigrated to Boston *circa* 1637. and that this **Lydia Downham** was mother of Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary.

If they are the couple we are concerned with they were no doubt not married (this accounts for the '*alias*' in Jonathan's name). It appears that a **Jonathan Downham** was grandfather or uncle of this Lydia Downham.

The later South Carolina Dunham family (neighbours of a Singletary family there in SC) no doubt came from this same 'Wash'- Holland area and they are known to have the same DNA as the descendants of Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary. This is in contrast to the Dunhams of Bladen Co., *North Carolina* who do not share the same DNA. According to my hypothesis, the North Carolina Dunham family may be descended from a n.w. Yorkshire Downham family of Clapham.

The South Carolina Dunhams (beginning with **John Dunham (born circa 1694)** of St. Thomas and St. Denis parish near Charleston, SC and his son John Dunham (born 1714) at the same place have a DNA similar to Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary's descendants. In fact it is said that the first John Dunham (born *circa* 1694) married about 1713 **Hannah Singletary**, daughter of Benjamin Singletary of Stockbridge. Massachusetts (descendant of Richard Singletary of Haverhill and his second wife Susannah Cooke).

Hannah Singletary was born in Haverhill, MA in 1696. (*information received by me from Gratia Dunham Mahony on 8 March 2008. It was received by Gratia Mahony from Samuel Ellis Dunham IV of Austin, Texas*).

The closest, in name, to Hannah Singletary of Haverhill were two **Ann Singletarys** of Lincolnshire. The first, baptised by John Singletary and Mary at Sutton St. James in that county on 29 April 1687 and the second Ann Singletary baptised of Zacharias (cf. above) Singletary and wife Frances at Wigtoft, Lincs.

How could the Dunhams of SC learn about the possibilities of this Haverhill, MA Hannah Singletary being a wife for John Dunham of SC unless there had existed a continual relationship between the earlier Singletarys of Lincolnshire (who were now in Haverhill) and the later Singletarys of Lincolnshire ? The only place Singletarys lived in England was in southern Lincolnshire. It means that the people of John Dunham of SC either had kept contact with **Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary's** people in Haverhill, MA (i.e. with a certain Lydia or other female Downham's people in America) or that they learned about Hannah Singletary from their Singletary neighbours in Berkeley County, South Carolina. In both cases it means that the Lincolnshire families, upon landing in South Carolina, could easily become acquainted with their Singletary and Downham relations which had emigrated to Boston area 80 years earlier.

Other information gathered about the South Carolina Dunhams notes that the first John Dunham recorded in South Carolina held 500 acres in Berkeley County with boundary shared by Jonathan Russ and, to the s.e., by a Singletary family.

We searched for a **Jonathan Russ** record at an appropriate time in Lincolnshire and found the following in IGI :

John Rosse, chr. 8 January 1681 at Quadring  
Thomas Rosse, buried 19.7. 1691 at Gosberton  
John Rowse, born 26.2. 1653 at Morton near Bourne, Lincs. (10 miles west of Spalding)  
John Rowse marries Mary Rivelin 22.4.1687 at Morton near Bourne.  
These families are in 'the Wash' - Holland area.

From where might the first South Carolina Dunhams have originated? Note that the first one, John, married a Singletary girl supposedly from Haverhill, MA. Obviously this John Dunham was of the **same 'Dunhams' as Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary since their DNA accords**. But the arrival in the colonies is not 1637 (as with Richard Singletary in Massachusetts) but two generations later (*circa*. 1714 to South Carolina). It is probable that this John Dunham was an immigrant to South Carolina from England and not an immigrant from Massachusetts. Even if he were an immigrant from Massachusetts to South Carolina, the fact that he married a Singletary girl who became his wife in South Carolina indicates that his family (Dunham) knew about *Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary* unless, of course, it is a mere coincidence that both had the name Dunham / Downham. John's property in South Carolina bordered one of the Singletary's lands (also probably Singletarys from England and not Singletarys from Massachusetts). Since John

married a Singletary from Massachusetts, it appears that the Singletarys of South Carolina were already very well acquainted with the same family as that of Richard Singletary of Haverhill.

These relations would not be possible except for the fact that both Downham / Downam and Singletaries continued living, working and having children in 'the Wash' area of Southern Lincolnshire.

In fact, Singletarys were at **Long Sutton**, Lincs. e.g. a John Singletary was christened there in 1688, son of John and Mary Singletary ; his sister Ann had been christened there in 1687 and up to 1720 at Sutton St. James a **William Singletary** was baptising children. A **Zacharias Singletary** was having his children baptised at Wigtoft (n.e. of Surfleet by 6 miles) and there were numerous Singletarys at Long Sutton in the 1680s-90s. We have seen above that Long Sutton was a prosperous village already in the Middle Ages, and an evident magnet for enterprising men with families having young children.

By 1680 one Downham family (i.e. **William Downham**) was having children baptised at **Spalding** (between Surfleet to the north and Sutton St. James to the south) and a **Brian Downham** (cf. Brian Downham above) had a child baptised at Market Deeping (15 miles west of Spalding) in 1681.

Thus there was a continuing proximity of Singletarys and Downhams in 'the Wash' region of south Lincolnshire up to the mid 18th century. There are still Singletarys there today. Probably the Singletarys of South Carolina were descendants of William or Zacharias Singletary noted above, and John Dunham was related to the Brian or William Downham noted above.

If we could find proper Singletary or Downham family members in 'the Wash' (or originating in that region) in the United Kingdom today, DNA testing would probably prove my theory in its general outlines.

Our working hypothesis is that Richard Singletary of Salem and Haverhill, MA had a companion **Lydia Downham** / Dunham from Sutton St. James, Lincolnshire - chr. 1620) and they had child **Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary** in 1639 in Massachusetts. She was 'Goodwife Singletary' preceding Susannah Cooke as Richard's wife. Perhaps Lydia died soon after the child-birth. Her uncle or grandfather in Sutton St. James or Tydd St. Marys was **Jonathan Downham**. Richard Singletary named his second daughter as **Lydia** after his deceased first companion. The Dunhams of South Carolina, in America, two generations later, were from the same Downham and Singletary stock of 'the Wash'.

#### Annexe I : Susannah Cooke

A search was made in IGI for the Susannah Cooke who married Richard Singletary in Massachusetts in 1639. The following interesting material was found :

A John Cooke married Frances Wood at **Gedney, Lincolnshire** 6 February 1586





*John 'to be placed in the family of his sister Singletary of Haverhill' (cf. Page's History of Cambridge, p. 514 – cited for me by Gratia Dunham Mahony)*

Annexe II: Maps of *John Speed 1610* and present-day map of 'the Wash' - Holland region.  
(see page 6)

*This article was written in March 2011 for the Dunham-Singletary Family Connection Newsletter (Gratia Dunham Mahony, editor) is dedicated to President Barack Obama who is descended from the Downham and Singletary families – probably those of 'the Wash' - Holland area of southern Lincolnshire. Also in appreciation of the work of Mrs. Michelle Robinson Obama.*

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## **Update and Progress of Research On the Singletary and Downham Families Of Lincolnshire, England**

*By Gratia Dunham Mahony*

I attended the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts April 7-10, 2011. While I was there I had an appointment to speak to Paul Milner, a specialist on genealogical research in northern England. He gave me several web sites to check and I wish to pass these on to anyone who will do some additional research.

GOONS—Guild of One Name Studies—<[www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)>

County Family History Societies—Lincolnshire / Cambridgeshire

Federation of Family History Societies Note these are in the UK, contact names and addresses for most county family history societies <[www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)>

British Isles Gen Web <[www.britishislesgenweb.org](http://www.britishislesgenweb.org)>

UK Mailing lists <[www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen\\_mail\\_country-unk.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_country-unk.html)>

Paul Milner also recommended the book *DNA and Family History, How Genetic Testing Can Advance Your Genealogical Research* by Chris Pomery, pub. 2004 in England. This book has some interesting information based on the British prospective.

One other comment made by Paul Milner as it relates to the Singletary family. He suggested that this surname might be of Dutch origin. We know that the Singletary family is found in Surfleet, and area in 'the wash' area. Apparently Dutch engineers came to the fens to oversee the draining of this low area.

## **Grace Joan (Dunham) Aguiar**

Grace Joan (Dunham) Aguiar passed away in Nantucket, Massachusetts on 28 January 2011. Joan (as she was known by her friends) was born in Fall River, Massachusetts 22 April 1934. She married Frank P. Aguiar who predeceased her. Frank and Joan raised four sons all of whom live in Nantucket.

Several years ago I was in contact with Joan Aguiar and she graciously provided me with a notebook that she had compiled on the Nantucket Dunham family. This family descends from Deacon John <sup>1</sup> Dunham through Joseph <sup>2</sup>, Benajah <sup>3</sup>, Ebenezer <sup>4,5</sup>, George F. <sup>6</sup>, Loring A. <sup>7</sup> (and his second wife Emily J. Key), Ethelbert <sup>8</sup> and Margaret (McCauley) Dunham, Grace Joan <sup>9</sup> Dunham.

I would like to acknowledge also the genealogical assistance of two DSFC members from this Nantucket Dunham line. These are grandsons of Alton <sup>8</sup> Dunham, brother of Etherbert <sup>8</sup> Dunham. Richard Hardy of Nantucket and Larry Dunham of Annandale, Virginia have both provided information which has helped me in compiling this branch of the Dunham family.

Joan (Dunham) Aguiar's love of family history and genealogy, and her desire to share her data, has contributed greatly to the knowledge of the Dunham's of Nantucket.

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## **One Hundred and Fifty Years Ago**

*By Gratia Dunham Mahony*

At 4:30 AM on Friday April 12th, 1861 a signal shot was fired at Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor by the Confederate soldiers located at Fort Johnson. After thirty-four hours of bombardment Fort Sumter was forced to surrender to the Confederates.

On Sunday April 14th, 1861, with colors flying, drums beating, and fifty guns firing in salute, the fatigued and defeated garrison of Fort Sumter marched out of their bastion and boarded vessels which would take them north.

On Monday, April 15th, 1861 President Lincoln publicly issued a proclamation declaring that an insurrection existed and called out seventy-five thousand militia from the various Northern states and convened Congress in a special session on July 4th. Throughout both the North and South, newspapers screamed the news, public gatherings sang patriotic songs, and heard flamboyant speakers. It was hard to comprehend that the Civil War had actually begun.!

Excerpt taken from *The Civil War Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865*, by E. B. Long, pub. New York 1971.